Supervisory system for banning Indecent publications

*2287. SHRI RAM JHTHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any supervisory system has been evolved to ban publications and broadcasts by the information and broadcasting media in the country which are polluting original culture and civilization of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken by Government to ban indecent publications and broadcasts; and

(d) the number and the names of publications and broadcasts banned, so far, alongwith the dates on which the ban was put on them?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Prasar Bharati already has Programme and Advertisement Code. The code *inter alia* does not permit telecast/broadcast of any programme or advertisement which contains anything obscene or defamatory. Doordarshan and All India Radio strictly abide by the code while telecasting/broadcasting their programmes.

The programmes of satellite channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country, are required to adhere to the programmes and advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed there under. Rule 6(1) (k) and (o) do not permit telecast of programmes/ advertisements which denigrate women through the depiction in such a way as to have the effect of being obscene, indecent or derogatory to women and are not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

In so far as the Print Media is concerned, the Government does not interfere in matters relating to the Press. The Press Council of India (PCI) is a statutory authority established for preserving the freedom of the Press and for maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. PCI has set the Norms for Journalistic Conduct according to which newspapers/journalists shall not publish anything which is obscene, vulgar or offensive to public good taste.

The Government has enacted the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 to prohibit indecent representation of women through advertisements or in publications, writings, paintings, figures or in any other manner. In addition, legal provisions exist in various statutes to deal with indecent publications.

(d) The Government *vide* its Notification issued on 20.10.1999 prohibited the operation of cable television networks which were carrying the programme containing the foreign satellite channel "TB-6" throughout the country.

Action against erring employees of AIR, Aurangabad

2288. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken any action against the erring employees of All India Radio, Aurangabad, as demanded by local journalists;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these journalists have undergone fast in protest against inaction;

(c) the action taken against the erring employees of AIR; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) It has been informed by Prasar Bharati Corporation that the allegations levelled by the journalist were looked into by an officer of the rank of Dy. Director